time. It is also of the view that officers engaged in election-related duties, to the extent feasible, should not be shifted during elections. Government, however, have not taken any view in regard to State funding of elections. As for ceilings on election expenses are concerned, the same are required to be observed by all the candidates.

Production of Condoms by Hindustan Latex Limited

*368. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the production target of condoms of Hindustan Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1995-96 as per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between Government of India and the Company;

(b) whether Government of India have given any order for the purchase of condoms;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details regarding the purchase of condoms by Government of India as per the MOU?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) As per the MOU 1995-96, signed between Government of India and Hindustan Latex Ltd. (HLL), Thiruvananthapuram, the production target of condoms of HLL is 613.00 million pieces for a performance rating of "very good".

(b) and (c) The Department of Family Welfare has so far placed orders on HLL for supply of 405.5 million pieces of condoms during 1995-96 at a cost of Rs. 29.06 crores.

(d) No details for the purchase of condoms by Government of India has been incorporated in the MOU.

Research Work in Antarctica

*369. SHRI MOOLCHAND ME,ENA:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the different Research Works undertaken by India in Antarctica during the last three years; and

(b) the benefits accrued to India therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) The different research work undertaken in Antarctica during the last three years in the course of 12th, 13th and 14th Expedition are in the following broad fields of Polar Science namely, Earth Sciences and Glaciology; Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology; Biology; Human Physiology; Environment and Communication and Engineering.

(b) (i) Details of scientific research carried out are as follows:

A. Earth Sciences and Glaciology:

— Geological mapping of virgin areas of the Orvin Mountains covering an area of 2000 sq. kms. The total area mapped since 1982 is 9600 sq. kms.

— Geochemical sampling of the crystallines of Schirmacher Oasis to elucidate the evolutionary history of the area.

— Insitu measurements of petrophysical properties of rocks including radioactivity.

— Monitoring of dynamics of glacial front movement of Dakshin Gangotri glacier.

— Preparation of Topographical map of 1:5000 scale of the Schirmacher Oasis.

B. Atmospheric Sciences:

— Vertical profiling of ozone concentration using laser heterodyne system and mesurement of seasonal varia-

tion of ozone by mm wave radio spectrometer.

— Studies on day time auroral phenomenon by an indigenously designed daytime glowphotometer.

— Studies on deep space magnetic currents and the correlation of magnetic storms with human physiology using fluxgate magnetometers.

C. Meteorology:

— Continuous recording of surface weather parameters and radiation budget measurement.

— Periodic ozonesonde and radios onde ascends to quantify climatic parameters.

D. Biological Sciences:

— Studies on algal colonisation and microfauna in fresh water lakes as a part of bio-diversity studies and ecological monitoring.

— Microbic for identifying bacteria that can be used for biodegradation.

— Studies on trophic structure of various Antarctic environment to understand the bio-active potential of each system.

E. Human Physiology:

— Studies on correlation of circadian rhythimicity and metabolic status of personnel through monitoring of body parameters on year round basis.

F. Environmental Sciences:

— Environmental Impact Assessment Studies through analysis of diverse samples of land, air and water from the station with the aim tc generate baseline data required for devising an environmental monitoring pro tocol.

G. Communication and Engineering:

— Upgradation of satellite communication by uplinking Maitri through electronic mail.

— Upgradation of data and voice communication between Maitri and India using low power HF transmitters.

— Establishing an experimental amateur radio station.

— Low temperature structural engineering studies on building materials and other station infrastructure.

(b) (ii) The benefits of this research to India are as follows:

— Studies of Antarctic climate with the aim to build a climatological data set for use in predicting and forecasting the Indian monsoons.

— Studies on ozonehole and its influence over the climatic pattern of the southern Indian Ocean.

— Windows and limitations of long distance HF communication has been understood and successfully applied to establish effective HF radio communication link between Antarctica and mainland.

— Geological mapping of hitherto unmapped areas of Schirmachar Oasis and Wolhthat mountains has helped to understand the correlation of this area with peninsular India.

— Findings of the studies on human adaptations in cold conditions and isolations can be applied to the frontier regions of the country.

— Microbes present in Antarctic can be used for human and organic waste degradation in cold regions of Himalayas like Siachen.

— Technology transfer on a commercial basis as a spin-off of the SODAR instrument developed in Antarctica for studying inland environmental pollution.

— Research and development in cold temperature technology in designing prototype toilet incinerators, generators and low temperature structures used in Antarctica has been deployed in colder regions of the country.

— Availability of trained manpower pool to work in extreme cold, harsh and isolated conditions have been generated from the expeditions.

— The Indian Navy and Air Force by virtue of their participation in the expeditions have gained professional expertise of the highest order in snow-ice navigation under adverse climatic conditions.

Comparative Poverty Position

*370. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the assessment of the Ministry with regard to rural poverty in June, 1991 and June, 1995, State-wise; and

(b) the basis of arriving at such conclusions?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment do not make assessment of rural poverty in the country. Such assessment of incidence of poverty in the rural areas is done by Planning Commission and the latest estimates of incidence of rural poverty relate to 1987-88 based on 43rd round of NSSO.

Warning Given by Doctors on Supreme Court Verdict

*371. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 546 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th November, 1995 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several prominent doctors have warned that the verdict of Supreme Court would herald the era of defensive practice in medicine throughout the country resulting in escalated cost of treatment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what is Government's reaction to the verdict and the warning given by doctors thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) It has been reported in national dailies that some doctors have opined that the result of the order of the apex court would increase the cost of treatment and lead to practice of defensive madicine by doctors. It is also reported that this apprehension has not been shared by other, the order of the Supreme Court is binding on doctors/ hospitals rendering service for consideration. Its implication on Government hospitals charging fully or partially is being examined.

Lok Pal Bill

*372. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Bill for creation of Lok Pal the next Session of the Parliament; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) The Government held announced earlier that it would come forward with a comprehensive Bill on Lokpal after the political parties and leaders had discussed and arrived at a consensus. Efforts to evolve a broad consensus are already on.

PSU Disinvestment Policy

*373. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Government are pursuing the PSU disinvestment policy in a luke-warm pace;

(b) whether the PSU disinvestment